Joint U.S.-British military monitoring force for Kashmir

241. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considerifng a proposal for a joint U.S. British military monitoring force for Kashmir;

(b) if so, the agencies behind it ;

(c) whether the proposed 500 strong verification force would suffice the 740 Km. Line of Control; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

U.S. foreign policy

242. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED :

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the root cause of terrorism world-wide is the U.S. foreign policy that encouraged terrorism through "war and genocide" it had waged in different parts of the world; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind India seeking in U.S. help since the U.S. has always titled towards Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Government unequivocally condemns and opposes all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whoever committed, and whatever be the reason invokd to justify terrorism.

(b) India and the United States have ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism, institutionalised through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. The two Governments are committed to preventing acts of terrorism and neutralising terrorist organisations everywhere in the world.

The United States has prescribed Pakistan-based terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen under its domestic law; asked President Musharraf of Pakistan to crack down on terrorist organisations operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir; end cross-border infiltration into India immediately and permanently; and, take action against terrorist camps in pakistan and pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Building and construction workers in A.P.

243. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of workers in Andhra Pradesh who are engaged in building and construction works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act is strictly being implemented in the State; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures being taken by Government to enforce the Act in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No separate survey has been conducted.